



56th meeting of the GARNet Advisory Board

16th June 2016 1pm-4pm – Department of Life Sciences, University of Bristol: Lunch will be provided

Papers:

>Minutes of 55th AB Meeting,

URLs for information:

><http://GARNet2016.weebly.com>

><http://garnetnatvar2016.weebly.com/>

>Updated meeting joint-proposal with John Bothwell (Durham)

>Updated CyVerseUK meeting proposal

>UKPSF Roadmap Document

Confirmed Attendees: David Salt (DS), Jim Murray (JM), Geraint Parry (GP), Anthony Dodd (AD), Katherine Denby (KD), Ian Henderson (IH), Nick Harberd (NH), Sean May (SM) Michael Ball (MB, BBSRC), Zoe Wilson (ZW by skype), Christine Raines (CR by skype).

1. Welcome

- Meeting hosted by AD and chaired by DS

2. Apologies

- Sabina Leonelli (SL), Steven Spoel (SS), Ruth Bastow (RB), Saskia Hogenhout (SH).

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

- Update on BBSRC BBR Plant Foundry Application.

- GP/JM informed that this was not funded. No official feedback has been received. MB indicated that in general for BBR it was important to demonstrate that there is a need for the proposed resource, which might have been lacking in this case.

- Update on support for NASC web design

GP had not acted on a suggestion in the previous GARNet meeting to assess community opinion on updating the NASC web interface. SM introduced the www.oryza.info URL as an alternative front-end interface for NASC. There was consensus from the committee that even though the users might not 'care' too much about the interface, it was still important to show that the NASC was modernising in this respect. The relevance of the NASC resource is in no doubt yet it is important to demonstrate to users and funders that it has a modern user-facing interface.

ACTION: SM to setup the new interface, which will include a button to take users to 'NASC Classic View'. User analytics will be assessed to determine whether this is embraced by the community.

4. Update from GARNet organised events

- **Review from GARNet/Egenis Workshop: April 21st-22nd 2016.**

- Overall successful event. Comments from DS, RB and GP



Well received by attendees (DS, SM, GP). Great venue, good mix of speakers and useful discussions. SM has since used some of the tools he learnt about at the meeting in his work.

- Potential for articles in Nature Plants and TIPS.

GP explained that there was an option for a Commentary piece in Nature Plants (from Chris Surridge) or for a longer piece in TIPS (from Suzanne Brink). Draft proposals for these have been prepared by GP and are awaiting triage by SL (she has been very very busy). The GARNet committee thought that a shorter (1000 words) Commentary piece in Nature Plants might be more useful for the community. This length of article should be able to touch on most of the topics covered in the meeting and provide signposts for future research.

- GARNet2016:

- Update on registrations

GP reported there have 15 registrations with two months remaining until the 'Early Bird Deadline'. However there has been plenty of interaction with the URL (over 400 page views/week), which is one reason for confidence that the required breakeven number of 68 attendees will be reached. The committee agreed that there was no need to worry at this time. GP will push advertising in July.

- Sponsorship Update

- £3100 secured in confirmed sponsorship.

- Student travel and accommodation bursaries.

- GP has offered over £500 in funding for travel and accommodation.

So far £410 has been allocated so there is scope for more applications.

- Wales and the West Plant Science meeting: September 5th.

- GP is organising a free pre-meeting for members of the GW4 consortium, SW and Welsh plant scientists, focused on young researchers. It is hoped that this will lead to subsequent attendance at GARNet2016. GP has applied for £8000 in funding from the GW4 to cover travel to Cardiff and provide seed-funding for new interactions that result from the meeting (between young researchers). This funding will be decided on July 1st after which time advertising will proceed at an increased level.

- Programme Notes.

- GP reported that no other contributors had been secured for the 'Translation Discussion' session. The committee suggested that it was important to include members from industry and business. Suggestions included Jonathan Harrington (JM), members of Agritech consortium (KD), local Biotech companies (eg Neem Biotech JM) or the consultant Owen Jones (AD).

- GP addressed his concerns about uptake for the Araport workshop. SM/KD suggested that altering the name of the sessions (after discussions with Chris Town).

ACTION: GP will address these suggestions in the lead up to the early bird registration deadline.

- 'GARNet Natural Variation 2016: From Genes to Discovery':

- Website live, registration will open on July 1st.

- Committee think that the schedule is outstanding, it will be a fantastic meeting.



- Update on sponsorship and registration details from DS and IH.

- DS: £2500 has been secured to write JXB reviews (Carlos Alonso Blanco, Orjan Carlsborg, Richard Leggett, Levi Yant, Kristin Bomblies). CR mentioned that this topic is of great interest to JXB and that 8-12 reviews could constitute putting together a special issue of JXB, which would secure £7000. It was thought that this would be possible, especially if younger researchers associated with more experienced researchers were approached.

IH has contacted some companies about sponsorship but they are concerned about where they would fit into the schedule. The committee decided that providing a booth at the poster session or giving space for a lunchtime short talk would be a good option. However these approaches will wait until after confirmation about JXB funding.

NH wondered what would happen if more than the capacity (100) applied for the workshop. It was thought that managing applications on a first-come first-serve would be the best method, with some provision set-aside for selected attendees. All agreed that this would be a happy event!

ACTION: DS and CR to liaise with Mary Traynor at JXB about the possibility of a special issue.

5. Future meetings.

- *CyVerseUK Workshop: March 2017*

- KD has confirmed the venue in York. Attendees will bring their own laptops, KD to check on any bandwidth issues. DS suggested removal of the first portion of the schedule in order to focus on CyVerseUK tools, as there is no need for a general introduction at this time. Keep the tool-specific sessions on the second afternoon, led by CyVerse PIs and PDRAs. KD has secured £1000 from SEB for the meeting. The GARNet financial contribution is expected to be minimal. All agreed that this was something to continue with.

ACTION: KD and GP will liaise to continue the planning of the meeting.

- Updated proposal for collaboration with John Bothwell for SEB symposia.

- GP introduced his amended proposal based on the Bothwell proposal entitled '*Morphogenesis in lower plants*'. The committee thought that this was an excellent idea for SEB but was not in the GARNet remit.

- Proposed session on Predictive Biology for SEB2018. A joint Plant and Cell session. JM to introduce this idea.

- JM introduced this idea that had been favourably proposed to the SEB Cell section. This idea will be developed further in the November SEB meeting but had broad support from SEB and the GARNet committee. JM reported that SEB chairman Paul Hutchinson is keen on supporting 'co-badged' symposia and that this would fit the bill and would have minimal GARNet financial contribution.

ACTION: JM to keep the committee updated on this idea.

- Workshop on '*From Proteome to Phenotype: role of post-translational modifications*'. Update on application.

- No word from SS about a response from New Phytologist. The committee agreed that attaching a more hands-on workshop based on proteomics would be very appropriate if it was funded. If the New Phytologist funding is unsuccessful then this is something that GARNet could pick up as a stand along meeting.



ACTION: GP will continue to liaise with SS.

- KD presented an idea for a future meeting or session that would highlight the UK research facilities that are available to plant scientists. It was thought this scope might be too narrow for a stand-alone meeting but should be included within future a GARNet meeting, especially if included with a set of successful case studies (idea from CR). DS suggested that the GARNet website could provide a resource list of UK plant science facilities based around case studies, similar to the audio podcasts that have been included as part of the Arabidopsis Research Roundup.

ACTION: GP to plan how these resources could be arranged and we will look for future opportunities to advertise UK facilities that are available for plant scientists.

6. UKPSF Update:

- Update from recent UKPSF committee meeting on progress toward production Roadmap.

- GP and JM provided a background to the Roadmap effort. GP gave an update and presented the documentation from a recent UKPSF committee meeting. The committee felt that this was too unfocussed. For this to succeed it was thought that this needs a respected plant scientist as a 'Champion' of this process, which is an important window of opportunity that must not be missed. There was some concern that the documentation does not address that fundamental scientific research is a critical part of the pipeline toward translation. CR mentioned that she will discuss the Roadmap with members of the SEB committee. At the next stopping point in the process the committee feels it is important to impress upon RSB that a "Champion" is needed to lead the effort toward producing this Roadmap.

ACTION: Ask RB to use her position on the UKPSF Advisory board to strongly suggest that a Champion is needed. CR will take similar action within the SEB.

7. Funding News

- Follow up SynBio grant application after unsuccessful BBR grant

- GP and JM introduced plans to submit a follow-up BBR grant that will focus on deciding the plant-parts that will be included within the Parts Foundry that is expected to be funded by a National Capability grant awarded to Anthony Hall and Nicola Patron at TGAC. This proposal will include mechanisms to maximise community involvement as well as a testing component based in Cardiff. MB suggested that the next BBR will be announced during the summer, likely with an earlier submission date compared to the early October date in 2015. He reiterated that it will be important demonstrate that there is need for this resource. JM/KD suggested that undertaking a series of case-study interviews with potential prominent users could serve to demonstrate this need alongside the usual set of letters of support.

The committee agreed that this is a good idea and are supportive.

ACTION: GP to liaise with JM, Anthony Hall and Nicola Patron to prepare this proposal once details of the BBR call and the National Capability grant are available.

- Global Challenges Research Fund



Discussion of the fund as a possible mechanism for providing support for basic research. The floor was open for questions to MB about the GCRF:

- *Will this be the only opportunity?* No, there will be future calls over the next five years of different types, there is a lot of money available.

- *Is this call being used to fund seed projects for which there will be more funding available in the future?* This is likely but importantly each project needs to show that the primary beneficiary is on the list of LMIC countries

- *Will there be a global challenge component within standard responsive mode grants?* This is possible although most details are yet to be decided. This call has the potential to be very broad and could likely include aspects of basic research with the above caveat regarding the primary beneficiaries. The proposal can be entirely UK-based as long as the technology has a clear benefit to an LMIC-list country or countries.

- *Who will be evaluating expressions of interest?* Not yet decided. In addition the scale of post-grant management is currently unknown, those grant-holders are advised to keep good track of how the funding is spent.

- 2015 BBSRC Round 3 Awards

- GP introduced this round of successful grant holders. The number of Arabidopsis-based grants was reduced. Unsure if this was significant or a one-off event.

8. AOB

9. Dates of Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- September 8th: Cardiff following GARNet2016 meeting (Sept 6-7th).

- NH gave his apologies as is unable to attend.

- Tuesday December 6th. York, hosted by KD.